



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES THE DIRECTORATE OF ANIMAL HEALTH

MONTHLY STATUS UPDATE: SEPTEMBER 2014

The March, April, May, June, July and August monthly reports have been published on the Department's website and were also e-mailed to the applicant and the third respondent.

To comply with the second court order dated 27 February 2014, the following has been undertaken:-

1. Responses received on the request for the identification of hazards associated with the importation of sable antelope from Zambia were considered and the following hazards were identified (Presented in alphabetically order):- *Amblyomma variegatum*, Anthrax, Bluetongue, Bovine Tuberculosis, *Brucella abortus*, *Brucella melitensis*, Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia, Foot and Mouth Disease, Nairobi sheep disease, Paratuberculosis (Johne's Disease), Peste des petits ruminants, Rabies, Rift Valley fever, *Theileria* spp (other than *T parva*) and Trypanosomosis.
2. The meeting with the independent consultant, Dr Sergeant of Ausvet took place from the 3rd to the 9th of September 2014.
3. A request was sent on 4 September 2014 for input on the Entry and Exposure assessments on the hazards identified with regards to the importation of sable antelope from Zambia. The deadline given for comments was 18 September

2014. Submitted inputs have been considered and will be taken into account in the Risk Analysis process.

4. Following numerous reminders a response from the Veterinary Authority of Zambia was received on 22 September 2014. The information submitted is being evaluated in the Risk Analysis process.
5. Due to the delay in the finalisation of the appointment of the independent consultant and the response from the Veterinary Authority of Zambia, the time period imposed by the Court Order cannot be adhered to and it will be necessary to apply for an extension. The estimated time period provided by the consultant for completion of the risk assessment is mid December 2014. In support of this the department annexes hereto marked "A" the methodology statement for the risk analysis prepared by Dr Sergeant of Ausvet. Pursuant to the risk analysis being completed it will have to be considered by the department and a draft policy will be published on 31 January 2015. Accordingly the department thus requests interested parties to agree to an extension of time, more particularly to agree that the draft policy can be published for comment on or before 31 January 2015. Thereafter the time periods imposed by the Court Order for receipt of comment on the draft policy and publication of a final policy will apply. All interested parties are required to inform the department in writing of their attitude to the request for extension of time by no later than 10 October 2014. The department will be approaching the Court for an extension of the time periods envisaged by the second court order.
6. The Department also sent out a request for inputs on the consequence assessment and risk management on the hazards identified with regards to the importation of sable antelope from Zambia. The deadline for comments is 13 October 2014.
7. The department has as at the time of sending this update had legal proceedings instituted against it by Swanvest 234 (Pty) Ltd. The department is considering the application and will inform interested parties of its decision in relation thereto in due course.

Annex A

29 September 2014

Director: Animal Health
Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries
Republic of South Africa

Re: Methodology for import risk analysis for sable antelope from Zambia

The proposed methodology for the risk analysis follows the guidelines as set out in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (the *Code*) and as summarised below:

1. Scope

The scope of the risk analysis specifically relates to the importation of Sable antelope from Zambia, and in particular to the import application for a consignment of Sable currently in isolation near Lusaka, Zambia and owned by Swanvest 234 Pty Ltd. This group of sable have been maintained in isolation in Zambia for more than five years, an important factor that will be taken into account in this analysis and which might not be applicable for other shipments.

2. Hazard identification

Hazard identification is the first step in any risk analysis. Potential hazards will be identified through the risk communication process, supported by review of previous analyses and documents. Potential hazards will be assessed against the criteria outlined in the code to identify specific hazards that will be taken through to the risk assessment process. The Hazard identification step also includes the evaluation of veterinary services for the exporting country (Zambia), so that this evaluation can be taken into account in the entry assessment and risk management steps.

3. Risk assessment

Risk assessment is a process comprising the four steps of:

- entry assessment: identifying pathways and estimating the likelihood of entry of a hazard into South Africa via identified pathways;
- exposure assessment: identifying pathways and estimating the likelihood of exposure of animals in South Africa, assuming an infected animal enters the country;
- consequence assessment: estimating the consequences of a hazard being introduced and established in South Africa; and
- risk estimation: estimating the overall risk associated with a particular hazard, which is the combination of likelihoods of entry and exposure and the consequences should entry and exposure occur

These four steps of risk assessment will be undertaken for all identified hazards, except for any hazards where it is determined that application of risk management measures described in the *Code* provide adequate risk management. Risk assessment for all hazards will be undertaken on a qualitative basis, as it is considered that for many of the hazards there is inadequate data available to support a quantitative model. For each hazard requiring risk assessment, pathways of entry and exposure, likelihoods of entry and exposure via those pathways and magnitude of

expected consequences should entry and exposure occur will be assessed in consultation with DAH. Likelihoods will be scored on a 5-point qualitative scale (Negligible Likelihood to High Likelihood) and consequences will also be scored on a 5-point scale (Inconsequential to Extreme Impact). Likelihoods and consequences will be combined using risk matrices to produce an overall risk estimate for each hazard.

Risk estimates for each hazard will be compared against the acceptable level of risk as determined by DAH and those which exceed the acceptable level of risk will be subjected to risk management, while any which do not exceed the acceptable level of risk will not require further risk management.

4. Risk management

Risk management is the process of determining the appropriate risk mitigation measures for a particular hazard, to reduce the risk associated with that hazard to an acceptable level and no further. Risk management options will be evaluated for all identified hazards requiring risk management and the least onerous option that reduces the risk to the acceptable level will be identified and selected.

5. Risk communication

Risk communication is being undertaken by DAH in accordance with their communication strategy and feedback and input from stakeholders will be considered and included, where appropriate, at all stages of the risk analysis process

6. Time line

The proposed time line for the risk analysis is based on the following factors:

- The IRA process requires detailed consideration of likelihoods, consequences and risk estimation and risk management options for a potentially large number of hazards, each of which has to be addressed separately
- The risk analysis process cannot be completed until all inputs from stakeholders have been evaluated and considered
- the risk communication process provides an anticipated deadline for the final stakeholder inputs in mid-late October, and sufficient time must be allowed after this deadline to fully evaluate responses and finalise the risk assessment
- The consultant has other pre-existing commitments which limit his availability during October
- Time required for DAH review of a draft report and incorporation of revisions to produce the final report
- This timeline is consistent with provision of a draft report by mid-late November and final report by early December.

If you require further information please don't hesitate to contact me

Kind regards



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