



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

To :
All Provincial Directors of Veterinary Services
All Members of the Buffalo Advisory Committee
All Respondents, Stake holders and
Organizations

From :
State Veterinary Services
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Skukuza. 1350
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24th November, 2010

LETTER TO ALL OWNERS / MANAGERS OF BUFFALO BREEDING PROJECTS THAT MAKE USE OF INFECTED BREEDING STOCK AS WELL AS ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Following publication of General Notice No 124 in Government Gazette No 32944 on 10th February, 2010, which sought public participation and comments regarding the proposed disease control measures and restrictions to be imposed on buffalo disease-free breeding projects that make use of infected breeding stock, requests were received from several sectors within the buffalo industry for an extension of time in which to comment. The cut off date for comments was thus extended until 7th July, 2010 by means of a publication in General Notice No 360 in Government Gazette No 33148 of 29 April 2010.

All of the comments received were analysed by a panel of professionals, whereafter recommendations were made to the National Director of Animal Health regarding the phasing out of buffalo breeding projects that make use of infected breeding stock, as well as a cut off date for exemptions from Regulation 20(6) of the Animal Diseases Act (Act35 of 1984).

Attached to this covering letter please find an official notification from the National Director Animal Health on the decisions made following the analysis of all the comments that were received up to and including 7 July 2010.

Kind regards

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Dr. L de Klerk-Lorist (BVSc, MSc)

**Chief State Veterinarian
Skukuza**



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Ref:

TO ALL OWNERS / MANAGERS OF BUFFALO BREEDING PROJECTS THAT MAKE USE OF INFECTED BREEDING STOCK; AND TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION AS PUBLISHED IN GENERAL NOTICE NO 124 IN GOVERNMENT GAZETTE NO 32944 OF 10 FEBRUARY 2010 AND GENERAL NOTICE NO 360 IN GOVERNMENT GAZETTE NO 33148 OF 29 APRIL 2010

Background

As a result of the unacceptable number of detected disease "break through" infections related to the movement of buffalo calves bred from infected parent stock, Regulation 20 of the Animal Diseases Regulations was amended by Government Gazette Notice No R. 558 of 22 May 2009, which inserts Regulation 20(6): "No permit shall be issued for the movement or removal of live buffalo out of the controlled areas for Corridor or Buffalo disease or the Infected Zone and Buffer Zone portions of the controlled areas for Foot and mouth disease as described in Table 1. Any exemption for this provision in terms of Regulation 11(2) (a) and (b) may be granted only subject to the written approval of the director referred to in section 2(1) of the Act." This was followed by the publication of General Notice No 124 in Government Gazette No 32944 of 10 February 2010 requesting public comments on the proposed disease control measures and restrictions to be imposed on the buffalo disease free breeding projects making use of infected parent stock. Inputs were requested regarding the time frame and the manner in which Regulation 20 (6) of the Animal Diseases Act (Act 35 of 1984) would be applied to the existing buffalo disease free breeding projects making use of infected parent stock.

During the initial comment period, requests were received from several sectors of the buffalo industry for an extension of time in which to comment, as well as requests for statistics of break-through infections. The cut off date for comments was thus extended until 7 July 2010 by means of a publication in General Notice No 360 in Government Gazette No 33148 of 29 April 2010. This notice was distributed together with requested break-through statistics to all known role players and stake holders on 27 May 2010.

Current Situation and Decisions

Subsequently, all public comments received by 7 July 2010 were analysed and considered.

Based on the results of this public participation, as well as established animal disease control principles, the Director of Animal Health has made the following decisions with regards to the future of buffalo breeding projects that make use of infected breeding stock.

1. The phasing out date for buffalo disease free breeding projects making use of infected parent stock will remain 31 December 2011, as was agreed at the meeting with the buffalo industry at Hoedspruit in December 2001.

- 1.1 This means that all granting of exemptions for movement of project buffalo progeny out of the FMD and Corridor disease controlled areas will cease on this date, and no further movement of project progeny out of the controlled areas for Foot and Mouth disease and Corridor disease will be allowed after this date. (A similar restriction will apply to the movement of buffalo progeny bred from Corridor disease infected parent stock outside the Corridor disease controlled areas. After closure of these Corridor disease vector free projects, those properties will be placed under quarantine until all infected animals have been removed).

- 1.2 Only buffalo that have completed stage 3 testing and have thus qualified to be moved out of the controlled areas by 31 December 2011 will be permitted to undergo such movement. Progeny of infected parent stock that have not completed stage 3 testing, and for whom application has not been made by 31 December 2011 for an exemption allowing them to be moved out of the controlled areas, will be subject to the strict application of Regulation 20(6) and will thus not be allowed to move out of the controlled areas.

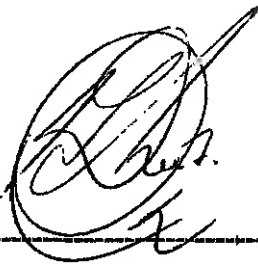
2. "Disease-free" founder calves from buffalo projects that had infected parent stock, and that have not completed stage 5 (vector- exposure stand still) because they were moved to the vector free areas after stage 3, will not have to be returned to the controlled areas for Corridor disease and Foot and mouth disease.

- 2.1 These project founder calves and their current locations will need to be flagged in order to monitor future movements and evaluate the results of the prescribed diagnostic tests prior to any additional movement. These calves will be required to undergo stage 5 testing (after 12 month vector-exposure standstill) if they are translocated to any of the vector areas in the country. This will also apply to any buffalo that have mixed with such project progeny (founder calves) prior to their completion of stage 5 testing.

- 2.2 In order to limit the animal disease risk, it is strongly recommended that all progeny from diseased parent stock that are located in the vector free areas and that have only completed stage 3 or 4 testing should be retained at their current locations and only their progeny should be sold or moved into the vector areas.
3. Compulsory pre-movement disease testing of all buffalo in the country will continue. Further measures are being considered, including:
- 3.1 Compulsory annual testing of a certain percentage (yet to be determined) of buffalo on all registered buffalo properties in South Africa will be considered in the near future. Buffalo that are hunted or captured for sale, treatment or internal movement would all qualify to contribute to this sampling requirement.
- 3.2 The buffalo industry could assist greatly and make a positive contribution to maintaining the buffalo health status outside the controlled areas for FMD and Corridor disease by policing buffalo – related movements and sales in the rest of the country.

In order to prepare for the phasing out of the buffalo disease free breeding projects all owners and managers of such projects are advised to contact their state veterinarians for proper planning of the process. State Veterinary Orders detailing the process and control measures will be issued in this regard.

Kind regards,



Dr. Dewald Keet

ACTING DIRECTOR: ANIMAL HEALTH



**agriculture,
forestry & fisheries**

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**ORDER FOR BUFFALO REGISTERED PROPERTIES WITHIN THE CONTROLLED
AREAS FOR CORRIDOR DISEASE OR THE INFECTED ZONE OR BUFFER ZONE
PORTIONS OF THE CONTROLLED AREAS FOR FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE**

STATE VETERINARIAN: DR
STATE VETERINARY OFFICE:
DEPARTMENT
PROVINCE
Tel:
Ref.:
Date ::

TO
THE OWNER/MANAGER:
FARM NAME:
DISTRICT:
FARM REGISTRATION NUMBER:
BUFFALO FARM REGISTRATION NUMBER: WR

**ORDER IN TERMS OF SECTION 15 OF THE ANIMAL DISEASES ACT, 1984 (ACT NO 35 OF
1984)**

**THIS ORDER PERTAINS TO REGULATION 20 (6) OF THE ANIMAL DISEASES
REGULATIONS AS AMENDED BY GOVERNMENT GAZETTE NOTICE NO R. 558 OF 22
MAY 2009**

1. GENERAL

In accordance with Regulation 20(6) of the Animal Diseases Regulations, as amended by Government Gazette Notice No R. 558 of 22 May 2009, "(6) No permit shall be issued for the movement or removal of live buffalo out of the controlled areas for Corridor or Buffalo disease or the infected zone or buffer zone portions of the controlled areas for Foot and mouth disease as described in Table 1. Any exemption for this provision in terms of Regulation 11(2) (a) and (b) may be granted only subject to written approval of the director referred to in section 2 (1) of the Act".

The buffalo registered property with registration number WR....., located on the farm(s) (list or attach a list of all farms to which the WR registration number applies) with Farm Registration Number and owned / managed by (owner / manager) with identity numberis/are located in the controlled areas for Corridor or Buffalo disease or the infected zone or buffer zone portions of the controlled areas for Foot and mouth disease. Thus from the date of issue of Government Gazette Notice No.R.558 of 22 May 2009, no permit shall be issued for the movement or removal of live buffalo from the registered property as described above unless exemption has been granted by the Director Animal Health of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

After 31 December 2011 no exemptions will be given for movement of any Buffalo out of the controlled areas for Corridor or Buffalo disease or the infected zone or buffer zone portions of the controlled areas for Foot and mouth disease in the absence of exceptional circumstances. Buffalo born from diseased parent stock will not be considered for exemption. This is consistent with the decision set out in the attached notice.

2. SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS FOR BUFFALOES ORIGINATING FROM BUFFALO DISEASE FREE BREEDING PROJECTS

Definitions:

- *Buffalo disease free breeding project is a breeding project designed to produce disease free offspring from disease infected parent stock*
- *Disease free buffalo are those buffalo that are considered free of FMD, Corridor disease, TB and CA and may be kept on farms registered for buffalo outside of the FMD and Corridor Disease controlled zones*
- *The CD vector free areas = those areas of South Africa's central and western plateau, including the Northern Cape and Free State, where no patent vectors for Theileria parva occur.*
- *CD vector areas = those areas of South Africa where patent vectors for Theileria parva occur.*
- *FMD = Foot and mouth disease*
- *CD = Corridor / Buffalo disease*
- *BTB = Bovine tuberculosis*
- *CA = Bovine brucellosis*

No exemptions for movement permits will be issued after 31 December 2011 for buffalo born of FMD and/ or CD and / or BTB infected parent stock. All applications received on or before 31 December 2011 will be considered only if the buffalo which will be moved have completed stage 3 of the buffalo disease screening protocol with negative results prior to 31 December 2011.

TABLE: DISEASE TEST SUMMARY FOR BUFFALO CALVES ORIGINATING FROM BUFFALO DISEASE FREE BREEDING PROJECTS IN THE FMD AND CD CONTROLLED AREAS

TESTS REQUIRED

Quarantine stage	Location of Facility	Duration of quarantine /retention	FMD	CD	TB	CA	Other Requirements
Stage 1	FMD infected zone & CD controlled areas	Variable :- until first negative test results	X	X	X Blood Test		Minimum age of 3 months. Effective tick Control
Stage 2	FMD surveillance zone & CD controlled areas	Minimum 30 days after arrival at the facility	X	X	X Blood test		Effective tick control
Stage 3	FMD surveillance Zone & CD controlled areas	Minimum of 30 days after Stage 2 tests	X	X	Skin & Blood Test		Effective tick control
Stage 4	Outside the FMD & CD controlled areas	Minimum of 30 days after entering the 4 th Stage facility.	X	X	X Blood Test	X	Minimum age of 9 months. Effective tick control
Stage 5	Free range on a property in the CD vector area	12 months	X	X	X Skin & Blood test	X	Unprotected – full brown-ear tick exposure

In summary, no matter which breeding system is used, each calf must have three consecutive negative tests for FMD and BTB and two consecutive negative tests for CD, while in the disease controlled area. This is followed by 30 days quarantine with retesting for all diseases (including the first CA test) outside of the disease controlled area. Thereafter, all calves are subject to a retention period of 12 months under free-range conditions and brown-ear tick exposure. Finally, following the completion of the retention period, a full panel of negative tests for all four diseases will be required before the animals are released from the breeding project. (For buffalo disease free breeding projects in the Corridor disease controlled areas outside the FMD controlled areas, the FMD tests in stages 1 & 2 may be omitted).

Buffalo calves produced in registered projects in the controlled areas for Corridor or Buffalo disease or the infected zone or buffer zone portions of the controlled areas for Foot and mouth disease, that have left these controlled areas prior to 31 December 2011 must still complete the remainder of the testing protocol. If these calves are to be moved to farms in the CD vector areas, then stage 4 & 5 requirements will apply at destination. In addition, any free-range buffaloes of any age, that originate from a herd in the CD vector free area that has received other 3rd or 4th stage buffaloes, bred from CD infected parent stock, must also undergo 5th stage with retention when moved to the CD vector area. Calves thus remain under permanent movement restriction until 5th stage testing is completed and negative. This also applies to any other buffaloes that have mixed with the progeny from CD infected parent stock prior to completion of 5th stage.

3. SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS FOR FREE RANGING BUFFALOES BORN FROM DISEASE FREE PARENT STOCK (FREE OF FMD, CD, BTB AND CA) ON REGISTERED PROPERTIES WITHIN THE FMD BUFFER ZONE

3.1 The following applies to keeping of all buffalo in the FMD buffer zone

- Only FMD-free buffalo are allowed in the FMD buffer zone.
- All buffalo farms or quarantine facilities in the buffer zone must be double fenced. The inner fence (towards the buffalo) must be an electrified standard buffalo proof fence for the controlled areas. The outer fence must be separated from the inner fence by at least 100 meters and must be electrified on the outer side if fence breaking species are present.
- In addition, any buffalo farms or quarantine facilities in the buffer zone must be separated from the infected zone, as well as from the international borders with Mozambique and Zimbabwe (where applicable), by at least three electrified fences of which the outer two are at least 100 meters apart.
- Annual disease testing of at least 10 randomly selected adult buffaloes (over 24 months – after at least two CD vector cycles) resident on these premises, will be mandatory. This testing is an ongoing monitoring activity that is designed to detect a disease prevalence of > 25% with >95% confidence. The testing has to be conducted at the cost of the owner / manager of the buffaloes as a prerequisite for the ongoing registration of the property for the keeping of FMD free buffalo in the FMD buffer zone.
 - FMD testing is compulsory for all of these properties.
 - CD testing needs to be conducted only if the owner / manager wishes to claim that the buffaloes on the property are free from CD. After at least 3 yearly testing cycles with negative results, the offspring of the FMD and CD free parent stock on such properties may be eligible for exemption for their movement out of the FMD and CD controlled areas.
 - The test results of buffalo legally moved with State Veterinary permits from the property within the previous 12 months may qualify as contribution to the annual disease testing at the discretion of the State Veterinarian.

3.2 The following applies to any movement of disease free buffalo out of the FMD buffer zone

- Owners / managers of buffalo registered properties in the FMD buffer zone may apply for exemption to move their buffalo out of the FMD buffer zone to the rest of the country only subject to the following conditions:
 - The buffalo can be demonstrated to be the offspring of FMD and CD free parent stock and the buffalo herd of origin has undergone at least three yearly testing cycles with negative test results for FMD and CD.

- o There is no history of TB or CA infection in any species on the farm or neighboring farm.
- o The entire double fenced buffalo farming unit should be quarantined from the first day of capture of the buffalo, until the last day of loading the buffalo, prohibiting any movement of any cloven hoofed species to the farm.
- o The entire group of buffalo to be moved should be captured and held in a boma, from last day of capture until final exemption is granted.
- o All captured buffalo must be ear tagged and microchipped.
- o All of the captured buffalo will be subject to a disease screening protocol while in confined quarantine as specified below.
- o For movements from the farm a minimum number of 5 adult animals must be tested. If the animals to be moved are calves or lesser number of animals, then five (5) additional adult female animals must be tested.
- o Any single positive test for (CD, CA, BTB, FMD) will dictate the future animal disease status of the property.
- o After the buffalo have been captured and the farm has been quarantined, the owner / manager may apply for conditional exemption through the State veterinarian to the Director Animal Health of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for the movement of buffalo out of the FMD and CD controlled areas.
- o Once conditional exemption is granted, the buffalo are to be tested as follows:
 - a) FMD at capture as well as 21 days later;
 - b) CD at capture;
 - c) TB at capture or 21 days later;
 - d) Brucellosis at capture. In the event of cows calving during the quarantine period, the quarantine period must be extended to 6 weeks with a second brucellosis test at the end of this period
- o Once the results of all tests are available and negative, application for final exemption may be submitted.
- o Final exemption will be granted only on condition that:
 - a) if the destination is in a CD vector area, the buffalo be retained at destination for 12 months and then tested for CD (thus undergoing a "5th stage" test); or
 - b) if the destination is not in a CD vector area, the property will be flagged by the State veterinarian and remain under permanent movement restriction. Should any buffalo be removed off the property in future, they will be subject to 12 months retention and CD testing thereafter, whenever they are moved to a CD vector area.

- c) The 12 month retention followed by CD testing in a CD vector area after movement out of the FMD and CD controlled areas may be replaced with a similar 12 month stand still at origin prior to movement under the following conditions:
- The state veterinarian at origin must be pre-warned by a full twelve (12) months of the intended movement.
 - The property must be quarantined for a full 12 months until the last day of loading the buffalo, prohibiting any movement of any cloven hoofed species to the farm.
 - The animals to be moved must be identifiably marked at the start of the quarantine period. The 12 month period will then serve as 5th stage stand still. At the end of this period one negative test for all four diseases will suffice to apply for exemption for movement to any destination

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State Veterinarian



**agriculture,
forestry & fisheries**

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**ORDER FOR BUFFALO REGISTERED PROPERTIES OUTSIDE THE CORRIDOR
DISEASE CONTROLLED AREAS ON WHICH CORRIDOR DISEASE INFECTED
BUFFALOES ARE BEING KEPT**

STATE VETERINARIAN: DR
STATE VETERINARY OFFICE:
DEPARTMENT
PROVINCE
Tel:
Ref.:
Date ::

TO
THE OWNER/MANAGER:
FARM NAME:
DISTRICT:
FARM REGISTRATION NUMBER:
BUFFALO FARM REGISTRATION NUMBER: WR

ORDER IN TERMS OF SECTION 15 OF THE ANIMAL DISEASES ACT, 1984 (ACT NO 35 OF 1984)

THIS ORDER PERTAINS TO REGULATION 20 (6) OF THE ANIMAL DISEASES REGULATIONS AS AMENDED BY GOVERNMENT GAZETTE NOTICE NO R. 558 OF 22 MAY 2009

1. GENERAL

In accordance with Regulation 20(6) of the Animal Diseases Regulations, as amended by Government Gazette Notice No R. 558 of 22 May 2009, "(6) No permit shall be issued for the movement or removal of live buffalo out of the controlled areas for Corridor or Buffalo disease or the infected zone or buffer zone portions of the controlled areas for Foot and mouth disease as described in Table 1. Any exemption from

this provision in terms of Regulation 11(2) (a) and (b) may be granted only subject to written approval of the director referred to in section 2 (1) of the Act".

The provisions of Gazette Notice No R. 558 of 22 May 2009 apply to "controlled areas for Corridor or Buffalo disease or the infected zone or buffer zone portions of the controlled areas for Foot and mouth disease". The provisions of Gazette Notice No R. 558 of 22 May 2009 will be applied in terms of Section 15 of the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act no 35 of 1984) also to properties outside the controlled areas for Corridor or Buffalo disease on which Corridor disease infected buffaloes are being kept because such properties have the same animal health status as properties in the Corridor disease controlled areas.

The buffalo registered property with registration number WR....., located on the farm(s) *(list or attach a list of all farms to which the WR registration number applies)* with Farm Registration Number and owned / managed by (owner / manager) with identity numberis/are located outside the controlled areas for Corridor or Buffalo disease but contains Corridor disease infected buffalo. Thus from the date of issue of this order, no permit shall be issued for the movement or removal of live buffalo from the registered property as described above unless exemption has been granted by the Director Animal Health of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

2. SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS

In addition to the above, after extensive consultation a decision was taken by the Director Animal Health of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries that no further exemptions for movement permits will be issued for buffaloes originating from buffalo disease free breeding projects that make use of Corridor disease infected parent stock after 31 December 2011.

With respect to the property detailed above, the restrictions after 31 December 2011 will be applied in the following manner:

- a) The restrictions according to Regulation 20(6) of the Animal Diseases Regulations, as amended on 22 May 2009, will apply to the property, and the farm will essentially remain under quarantine for animal disease control purposes, until all Corridor disease infected buffalo have been removed and those portions of the farm that housed the infected buffalo have been kept free of buffalo and cattle for a minimum period of 18 months.
- b) The infected buffalo may be removed only to the Corridor disease controlled areas and have to be accompanied by a valid State Veterinary movement permit issued with exemption from the Director Animal Health of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

- c) From 31 December 2011 no exemptions and no permits will be issued for progeny from infected buffalo until all infected buffalo have been removed from the registered property. After all infected parent stock has been removed, the owner / manager may apply for exemptions and State Veterinary movement permits for remaining buffalo progeny. Such movements will remain subject to the standard disease screening protocol for buffalo as well as additional restrictions and disease testing as required. This includes but is not limited to the provisions as detailed in point 3 below.

3. TESTING PROTOCOL FOR BUFFALO PROGENY FROM CORRIDOR DISEASE INFECTED PARENT STOCK BRED IN THE "VECTOR-FREE" AREAS

Definitions:

- The CD vector free areas = those areas of South Africa's central and western plateau, including the Northern Cape and Free State, where no patent vectors for *Theileria parva* occur.
- CD vector areas = those areas of South Africa where patent vectors for *Theileria parva* occur.
- FMD = Foot and mouth disease
- CD = Corridor / Buffalo disease
- BTB = Bovine tuberculosis
- CA = Bovine brucellosis

QUARANTINE STAGE	LOCATION OF FACILITY	COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION OF QUARANTINE OR RETENTION	FMD	CD	BTB	CA	DESTINATION
Stage 1	CD Vector free Area	N/A	No testing				No Movement
Stage 2	CD Vector free area	Minimum 30 days after separation from CD infected breeding stock		X	X Blood test		No Movement
Stage 3	CD Vector free area	Minimum 30 days after primary test. Calves must be at least 9 months old	X	X	X Skin & blood Test	X	Other properties in the vector free area
Stage 4	CD Vector free area	Minimum of 30 days after entering the 4 th Stage facility	X	X	X Skin & Blood Test	X	Minimum age of 9 months. Effective tick control
Stage 5	Free range on a property in the CD vector area	12 months	X	X	X Skin & Blood test	X	Unprotected – full brown-ear tick exposure

In summary, all calves produced in projects making use of Corridor disease infected parent stock in the CD vector free areas must have two negative tests for CD and BTB and a single negative test for FMD and CA on the farm of origin and may then be moved to registered properties in the CD vector free areas. If these calves are to be moved to farms in the CD vector areas, then stage 4 & 5 requirements will apply at destination. In addition any free-range buffalo of any age, that originate from a herd in the CD vector free area that has received 3rd or 4th stage buffalo bred from CD infected parent stock, must also undergo 5th stage with retention when moved to the CD vector area.

Calves thus remain under permanent movement restriction until 5th stage testing is completed and negative. This also applies to any other buffalo that the progeny from CD infected parent stock are mixed with prior to completion of 5th stage.

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State Veterinarian