



## **VETERINARY PROCEDURAL NOTICES**

### **VPN/00/2008-1 COMPILATION OF DEFINITIONS** **APPLICABLE TO THE VARIOUS VPN's**

**APRIL 2008**

**DIRECTOR: VETERINARY SERVICES  
PRIVATE BAG X 138  
PRETORIA 0001  
TEL: 012 319 7456**

## **DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED IN VPN'S**

- Abattoir** : Means premises used for the slaughter of animals for human or animal food and approved by the National Veterinary Authority / Provincial Veterinary Authority for export purposes. The abattoir must comply with recognized international standards of structural and veterinary hygiene requirements.
- Analyst** : Means a suitably experienced chemical analyst.
- Analyzing Laboratory** : Means a properly equipped institution staffed by technically competent personnel and accredited by the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) as capable of performing the chemical analyses stipulated in the residue-monitoring programmes of the National Department of Agriculture.
- Animal** : Means bees, domesticated bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, solipeds or poultry; or farmed ostriches or crocodiles; or wild cloven-hoofed game.
- Approved** : Means officially approved, accredited or registered by the Veterinary Authority which can be the National or Provincial Veterinary Authority.
- Approved Dipping Station** : Means an officially supervised agricultural, industrial or commercial undertaking on which raw hunting trophies are being fully processed.
- Approved Farm** : Means an officially supervised agricultural, industrial or commercial undertaking on which cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, horses or ostriches for breeding, rearing, fattening or slaughter are being kept or bred.
- A game farm approved and registered by the Controlling Authority in terms of the requirements in Annex B of the VPN/05: Standard for registration of a game farm.
- Approved Milk Shed** : Means a milking shed in respect of which a certificate of acceptability has been issued in terms of the Regulations in Government Notice No. 1-1561 relating to milking sheds and the transport of milk issued in terms of sections 34, 35, 39 and 40 of the Health Act, 1977 (Act 63 of 1977)
- Approved Private Quarantine Station For Reptiles** : Means a facility under the control of the controlling authority where a group of animals is maintained in isolation, with no direct or indirect contact with other animals, in order to undergo observation for a specified length of time and, if appropriate, testing and treatment.

- Approved Quarantine Facility For Wild Caught Non-Human Primate** : Means a facility under control of the controlling authority where wild caught non-human primates are maintained in isolation, with no direct or indirect contact with other animals.
- Authorized Person** : Means any person authorized to exercise or perform any power or duty, or requested to render any service, by the National / Provincial Veterinary Authority.
- Carcass** : Means the whole body of a slaughtered animal after bleeding, evisceration and removal of the limb at the carpus and tarsus, removal of the head, tail and udder, and in addition, in the case of cloven-hoofed animals and solipeds, after flaying. However, in the case of pigs, removal of the limbs at the carpus and tarsus and removal of the head may be waived; in the case of ostriches carcass means the whole body of an ostrich after bleeding, plucking, flaying, evisceration, removal of the head and sectioning of the legs at the tibio-tarsometatarsal joint and the wings at the humero-radio-ulnar joint.
- Category “A” Game** : Elephant, Rhino, Hippo and Giraffe.
- Category “B” Game** : Large Antelope (Ruminant Wild game-RUW) Kudu, Eland, Hartebeest, Oryx
- Category “C” Game** : Small Antelopes (Ruminant Wild Game-RUW) Springbuck, Impala, Duiker, Bushbuck Blesbuck, etc.
- Certificate Of Acceptability** : Means a certificate issued in terms of the Regulations in Government Notice No. 1-1561 relating to milking sheds and the transport of milk issued in terms of sections 34, 35, 39 and 40 of the Health Act, 1977 (Act 63 of 1977), whereby a milking shed is approved for the purpose of milking dairy stock to produce milk for human consumption.
- Certifying Officer** : Means the Official Veterinarian or any other person authorized by the Controlling Authority to sign certificates.
- Coliform Bacteria** : Means rod-shaped, Gram negative aerobic and facultatively anaerobic non-spore forming bacteria that ferment lactose, producing gas and acid in the process, by using the mediums and methods prescribed.
- Competent Authority (CA)** : Means the National Veterinary Authority (National Authority) (Competent Authority NCA) or Provincial Veterinary Authority (Provincial Competent Authority, PCA) or other Governmental Authority, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and guidelines in the country.
- Composite Sample** : Means the samples from separate sources which are pooled for testing purposes.

- Controlling Authority** : Means the authority which is directly responsible for the application of Animal or Veterinary Public Health measures in a specified area of the country and for supervising the issuing of International Animal Health and Sanitary Certificates in a specified area of the country.
- Public health measures on dairy farms are functions of the Department of Health
- Dairy Farm** : Means a facility at which dairy stock are kept.
- Dairy Stock** : Means cows, she-goats, ewes, mares or jenny asses used in the production of milk for human consumption and “milk animal” shall have a corresponding meaning.
- Depot (Game)** : Means a central area, either transferable or permanent where game carcasses are brought for evisceration and preliminary post mortem inspection.
- Disinfection** : Means the application, after thorough cleansing, of procedures intended to destroy the infectious or parasitic agent of animal diseases, including zoonosis, this applies to vehicles and different objects which may have been directly or indirectly contaminated.
- Disposal System** : Means a subterranean or ground-level tank or other vessel, sewerage system, dam or farm-land into or on to which effluent may be discharged.
- Effluent** : Means any liquid, liquid or solid waste or liquid or solid manure emanating from a milking shed or establishment.
- Environmental Health Officer** : is a qualified officer registered with the Health Professionals Council of South Africa and appointed in terms of section 24(1) of the Health Act 1977 (Act 63 of 1977) and section 10 of the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics, and Disinfectants Act 1972 (Act 54 of 1972). This officer may also be a veterinarian.
- Escherichia Coli** : Means the organism that produces gas at  $44^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 0,5^{\circ}\text{C}$  in brilliant green 2% (m/v) bile broth and produces indole in tryptone water at the same temperature when incubated for 24 hours, when using the method described in paragraph 2 of Annex A or, alternatively, when the violet red bile MUG agar method is used, the colonies that fluoresce blue in the surrounding mediums under an ultraviolet light after incubation for  $24 \pm 1$  hour at  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Establishment** : Means approved slaughterhouse, cutting plant, cold store or a unit grouping together several such establishments. (Export establishment would be approved to export).
- Exporting Country** : Means a country from which commodities are sent to another country.

- Flock of Birds** : Means any group of birds having common access to one or more pens, buildings or houses. More than one flock of birds may exist in one farm.
- Fresh Meat** : Means meat, including meat vacuum-wrapped in a controlled atmosphere, which has not undergone any treatment other than cold treatment to ensure preservation.
- Free-Zone** : Means a zone in which the absence of the disease under consideration has been demonstrated.
- Holder** : The person in whose name a certificate of acceptability has been issued.
- Hunter** : Means any person involved in the killing of wild game animals and/or the bleeding, and if trained as Game Meat Examiner, the partial evisceration and limited field dressing of wild game animal carcasses, whether as part of a commercial harvesting operation or otherwise.
- Identification** : Means any electronic device (micro-chip), mark or stamp approved by the Controlling Authority and also includes any tag or label bearing a corresponding mark or stamp.
- Importing Country** : Means a country that is the final destination to which commodities are sent.
- Infectious Disease** : Means those transmissible diseases as listed in the International Animal Health Code of the Office International Des Epizooties for which there is evidence that it is transmissible through the trade in fresh meat.
- Manager** : In relation to a facility includes any person for the time being responsible for the management of the facility.
- Matrix** : Means  
 250g of muscle  
 250g of liver  
 Kidney in its entirety  
 250g of fat  
 50ml of urine  
 7ml of blood plasma  
 Thyroid in its entirety  
 100ml raw milk  
 12 whole eggs  
 100ml of honey  
 In the case of poultry and game 250g of any matrix from one farm may be pooled.

- Meat** : Means all parts of the carcass of bovine animals, sheep, goats, pigs, solipeds, ostriches, wild cloven-hoofed animals or wild solipeds.
- Meat Examiner** : Means a person who has undergone an approved course in Meat Inspection.
- Meat Inspector** : Means a person who has completed the National Diploma in Public Health and who is appointed as an Environmental Health Practitioner / Meat Inspector (Government)
- Milk Tanker** : Means a vehicle for the transport of milk in bulk.
- Milking Parlour** : Means that area of the milking shed in which dairy stock are milked.
- National Coordinator** : Means an officer designated by the Department to act as link between the Department and the Provincial co-coordinator, to collaborate with the Provincial co-ordinator, and to keep the Department informed of the activities of the Provincial co-ordinator.
- Official Veterinarian (State Veterinarian)** : Means a Veterinarian authorized by the National Veterinary Authority / Provincial Veterinary Authority of the country or province to perform certain designated official tasks associated with animal health and/or public health.
- Official Veterinary Control** : Means that the Controlling Authority knows the location of the animals and the identity of their owner or responsible keeper and is able to apply appropriate animal health measures, as required.
- Outbreak of Disease** : Means an occurrence of one of the diseases as listed in the OIE Code, on a farm, including all buildings and all adjoining premises, where animals are present.
- Where it cannot be defined in this way, the outbreak shall be considered as occurring in the part of the territory in which, taking local conditions into account, it cannot be guaranteed that both susceptible animals and non-susceptible animals have had no direct contact with affected or suspected cases in that area.
- For example, in the case of certain parts of Africa, an outbreak means the occurrence of the disease within a sixteenth square degree; the occurrence is still referred to as an outbreak even though the disease may occur in several places within the same sixteen square degree.
- Owner** : Means the person in whom the ownership in respect of animal, thing or property is vested.

- Potable Water** : Means water that is pure and wholesome at the point of usage in accordance with requirements contained in the WHO publication "Guidelines for drinking-water quality". Addendum to volume no.2, 1998. (Inter alia: Maximum chlorine level = 5ppm, maintenance level 0;2 – 0,5 ppm)
- (Water intended for human consumption water) means water that is pure and wholesome at the point of usage.
- (a) All water in its original state or after treatment intended for drinking, food preparation and domestic purposes regardless of-its origin.
- (b) All water in any food production undertaking. The Controlling Authority quality must be satisfied that the quality of the water cannot affect the wholesome of the foodstuff in its finished form.
- Presumptive Test** : Means a test, the positive result of which invites the presumption that a substance is present after which the presumption must be proven to be true by using more sophisticated and accurate test methods.
- Protective Clothing** : Means special garments intended to prevent the contamination of meat and used as outer wear by persons in an establishment. It includes head coverings and footwear.
- Pure Water** : Means clean and clear water that contains no *Escherichia coli* organisms per 100 ml and is free from any substance in concentrations detrimental to human health;
- Raw Cream** : Means cream that has not undergone pasteurisation, sterilization or ultra high temperature treatment.
- Raw Milk** : milk produced by secretion of the mammary glands of one or more cows, ewes or goats, which has not been heated beyond 40°C" or undergone any treatment that has an equivalent effect.
- Provincial Coordinator** : Means an officer designated by the Provincial Controlling Authority to co-ordinate all matters relating to the residue monitoring program in their Province.
- Registration** : Is the action by which information on the farm, establishment, etc. is collected, recorded and made appropriately accessible.
- Residue** : Means a residue of substances having a pharmacological action, of their metabolites and of other substances transmitted to animal products and likely to be harmful to human health.

**Residue Monitoring Programs** : Means the residue monitoring programmes of the National Department of Agriculture

**State Official** : An officer authorized by the Veterinary Authority to perform animal health inspections.

**Taxidermy** : Means a facility where game trophies receive a complete taxidermy treatment so as to ensure their preservation at ambient temperatures without requiring any other treatment or preservation process.

For the purposes of this VPN a complete taxidermy treatment entails that either:

- (1) the animal trophy has been mounted in a life like manner [e.g. full mount, half mounts, shoulder mount], or
- (2) skins have been fully tanned and processed so that they can be displayed [e.g. full skin, flat skin, back skins], or
- (3) skulls (bones), horns / antlers, hooves, claws and teeth have been fully processed and mounted in some manner for display [e.g. skull & horns on shield (skull mount/European skull mount), warthog tusk set].

If the appropriate structure/procedures are established, Taxidermy may produce and export both fully processed and Dip & Pack game trophies.

**Dip and Pack (Dip & Ship) Facility** : Means a facility that performs an initial game trophy treatment in which:

- (1) In the case of game trophies consisting solely of bone, horns, hooves, claws, antlers or teeth, the trophies:
  - (a) have been immersed in boiling water for an appropriate time so as to ensure that any matter other than bone, horns, hooves, claws, antlers or teeth is removed;
  - (b) have been disinfected with a product authorized by the competent authority, in particular with hydrogen peroxide where parts consisting of bone are concerned;
  - (c) be packaged, immediately after treatment, without being in contact with other products of animal origin likely to contaminate them, in individual, transparent and closed packages so as to avoid any subsequent contamination.



2. In the case of game trophies consisting solely of hides or skin, the trophies:
  - (a) have been either
    - (i) dried, or
    - (ii) dry-or wet-salted for a minimum of 14 days before dispatch,
  - (b) be packed, immediately after treatment, without being in contact with other products of animal origin likely to contaminate them, in individual, transparent and closed packages so as to avoid any subsequent contamination.

**High Risk Taxidermy / Dip & Pack** : Means a taxidermy or dip & pack facility which handle trophies that are deemed to pose an increased disease risk as they are imported from countries with either a known disease risk or with an unknown disease risk status, or originate from areas under veterinary restricted zones such as FMD infected areas.

**Low Risk Taxidermy / Dip & Pack** : Means a taxidermy or dip & pack facility which handle trophies that are deemed to pose a low disease risk, including trophies originating from areas in South Africa that are not under any restriction due to animal diseases, trophies imported from countries that are known and proven to be free from diseases of concern, such as FMD, and trophies that are irradiated directly after importation into South Africa.

**Team Leader** : (See hunter)

**Veterinarian** : Means a person registered or licensed by the relevant Veterinary Statutory Body of a country to practice veterinary medicine / Science in that country.

**Veterinary Authority (National or Provincial)** : Means the National Veterinary Authority (National Competent Authority) or Provincial Veterinary Authority (Provincial Competent Authority) or other Governmental Authority, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health, veterinary public health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and guidelines in the country.

**Veterinary Administration** : Means the National Department of Agriculture.

**Veterinary Services** : Means the governmental and non-governmental organizations that implement animal health and welfare measures. This refers in general to the Provincial Veterinary Services who are under the overall control and Directions of the National and Provincial Veterinary Authority. Private Sector Organisations are normally accredited or approved to deliver functions by the Veterinary Authority.

- Veterinary Statutory Body** : Means an autonomous authority regulating veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals.
- Wild Game Animal** : Means any vertebrate animal:
- (a) including a mammal, bird or reptile but excluding fish.
  - (b) which is hunted (including wild mammals living within an enclosed area under conditions of freedom similar to those enjoyed by wild game).
  - (c) of a species that can be legally harvested.
- Wild Game Animal Carcass** : Means the undresses, partially dressed or dressed body of a wild game animal that is being, or is intended to be, dressed or prepared in a wild game establishment, and includes any associated organs.
- Wild Game Harvesting** : Includes the killing of wild game animals, their identification, bleeding, field dressing, chilling, hygienic storage and transport up to the point of their presentation for inspection at a wild game-processing establishment.
- Wild Game Meat** : Means the edible part of any wild game animal including crocodiles that has been dressed or prepared in a wild game establishment and passed by an inspector as fit for human consumption, and includes edible wild game offal.

Note: The definitions used in both the South African Animal Diseases Act (No. 35 of 1984) and its Regulations, as well as the South African Meat Safety Act (No. 40 of 2000) should be used in case of uncertainty.