



# agriculture, forestry & fisheries

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## **PROGRESS REPORT: EXPORT MARKET ACCESS QUESTIONNAIRES**

2016-08-10

### **Background**

As potential markets open up for trade, the demand for the assistance from the Directorate Animal Health in securing export markets has increased dramatically. One of the first steps in opening export markets is usually for the importing country to assess the disease risks in South Africa. This is done by means of a questionnaire, which needs to be completed by the Veterinary Services of South Africa. In general, it takes a number of months to complete one questionnaire. This is due to the extensive nature of the questions and the fact that a lot of the information has to be obtained from other government bodies or the relevant industries.

A backlog of such market access questionnaires developed over a period of time, when a number of questionnaires were received within a short period of time and the Directorate Animal Health did not have an equivalent increase in personnel to deal with these responses. A Meat Export Priorities Workshop was held on 1 December 2015 and the challenges with regards to export market access were discussed. The industries indicated commitment to provide funds for personnel to handle export market access work.

The questionnaires already in the queue for completion were also prioritized during the December 2015 meeting and it was agreed that the efforts should be channeled to the export markets with the best chance of success.

### **Progress report and current status**

Since the meeting in December 2015, the following progress has been made:

#### **1. Permission from DG to authorise industry consultants**

Submission was made to request the DG's permission for the Directorate Animal Health to allow industry to appoint consultants to assist with the completion of export market access questionnaires and risk analysis. This was approved in February 2016 and communicated to the relevant industries directly, as well as through the Animal Health Forum.

#### **2. Appointment of industry consultants:**

Three industry consultants were appointed and authorised to handle market access questionnaires and other market access related work with regards to beef, pork, poultry and

ostrich meat. One of these consultants was also appointed to assist with the negotiation of health certificates for the export of cattle, sheep and goat semen and embryos.

### 3. Progress on export market access

#### i) Export of wool to Malaysia:

A completed questionnaire for the export of wool to Malaysia was submitted in September 2015. Malaysia indicated that they would consider wool from South Africa in principle and supplied the health conditions that they require SA to certify. These negotiations on the health certification were handed over to the Import Export Policy Unit to handle further.

#### ii) Export of poultry meat to Hong Kong:

Information was supplied to Hong Kong on the status of Avian Influenza in South Africa. Based on this, Hong Kong indicated that they will consider the importation of poultry meat from South Africa and have supplied their import conditions for further negotiation on the health certification. This has now been handed over to the Import Export Policy Unit for negotiation.

#### iii) Progress with market access questionnaires:

Since January 2016, the following questionnaires (which were in the queue for completion) were completed and submitted to our trade partners for evaluation:

- Beef to Indonesia
- Beef to China
- Beef to Vietnam
- Beef and poultry meat to Saudi Arabia

The following questionnaires are nearly completed and it is envisaged that these responses will be submitted to trade partners by October 2016:


- Beef and pork to Thailand
- Beef and pork to Philippines

Other market access negotiations that have been ongoing are:

- Beef, pork and poultry and ostrich meat to Singapore
- Beef to Sri Lanka

### **Conclusion**

The backlog of export market access questionnaires was successfully dealt with. In November 2015, there were 13 questionnaires in the queue for completion. Through the prioritising of the questionnaires during the workshop held with the relevant industries, and the subsequent appointment of industry consultants, this has decreased to only 2 questionnaires.

  
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