



MEDIA RELEASE

for Immediate Release

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RED MEAT INDUSTRY FORUM'S VIEW ON CARTE BLANCHE MEAT PRODUCT RELABELING REPORT

The Red Meat Industry Forum has noted with concern the content of the Carte Blanche report in regard to some Meat World branches allegedly re-labelling expired meat products and unacceptable levels of *E.Coli* found in tested products.

Food premises are regulated by R962 (dated Nov 2012) of the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act 54 of 1972) under the mandate of the Department of Health. These regulations are applied by local and municipal authorities through Environmental Health Practitioners visiting the premises and issuing Certificates of Acceptability (R362) to ensure compliance to these guidelines. It is expected of the person in charge to follow the best available methods to evaluate food hygiene standards. These regulations do provide for repacking products under specified circumstances.

Regulations relating to the labelling and advertising of foodstuffs, R146 (dated Mar 2010) of the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 also under the mandate of the Department of Health and enforced by local and municipal authorities; refer to a date of minimum durability (best before) and define this to be the period during which the product will remain fully marketable, but also states that food may still be perfectly satisfactory after this period.

Then lastly, the Consumer Protection Act, 2008 (Act 68 of 2008) aims to prohibit certain unfair marketing and business practices to protect the interests of the Consumer at large while the National Consumer Commission has been established where Consumers can lodge complaints.



Red Meat Industry Forum | manager@rmif.co.za | 392 Church Ave, Lynnwood, 0081 | www.redmeatsa.co.za | Tel: +27 79 162 6465

Members: Mr D Ford (Chairman), Mr T Davidson (Vice-Chairman), Mr G Schutte, Mr G Southey, Dr K le Riche, Mr A Cocks, Mr A Mahanjana, Mr K van der Ryst, Mr K Louw, Ms T Rudman, Mr D Osborne, Mr F Kok, Mr A Vos, Ms M de Lange (General Manager)

The Red Meat value chain is long and complex and is represented by various representative role player organisations from within each specific industry sector. The Red Meat Industry trusts that the Competent Authority in this regard will enforce their legislative mandates and prosecute any wrong doings of the parties involved so as to restore consumer confidence in red meat and processed meat products.

Should any complaint be forwarded to the Department of Health or the National Consumer Commission, they will certainly follow up on these complaints and forward to the relevant responsible authority.

Issued by

Dave Ford

Chairman

Red Meat Industry Forum

On behalf of the Red Meat Industry

For more information:

Red Meat Industry Forum

manager@rmif.co.za

079 162 64 65

National Federation of Meat Traders

tgd@mweb.co.za

011 646 0290

South African Meat Processors Association

manager@savam.co.za

082 786 3650

South African National Consumer Union

sancu@sabs.co.za

012 428 7122



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