

NATIONAL SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY COORDINATING COMMITTEE (NSPS CC)

**DIRECTORATE: FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT STANDARDS
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**REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY AWARENESS
CREATION, 12-13 SEPTEMBER 2013, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA**



**agriculture,
forestry & fisheries**

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MANDATE FOR A NATIONAL SPS CC:

- The WTO SPS Agreement does not provide for the establishment of a National SPS Coordinating Committee.
- For the administration of the SPS Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade each SADC Member State is required to establish a National Committee on SPS Matters which shall include WTO SPS NNA and Enquiry Points (Article 7 of the WTO SPS Agreement).



SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL SPSC

OBJECTIVES:

- Serve as a national focal point and platform to co-ordinate and address SPS and associated TBT related issues in the interest of protecting the life and health of humans, animals and plants, and facilitating safe trade of agricultural, forestry and fisheries products.
- Enhance national implementation of the WTO SPS / TBT Agreement and obligations to the SPS Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade.



SCOPE OF SA NATIONAL SPSC

- Coordination within DAFF, related government departments and standards agencies to ensure protection of SA's interests.
- Coordination between obligations in terms of the WTO SPS / TBT Agreement and the relevant international standard setting bodies, namely Codex, OIE and the IPPC.
- Focus areas include matters relating to fish health (marine and inland), wild fauna and flora, forests and environmental protection as covered by the mandate of DAFF in relation to the SPS- and TBT agreements.



FUNCTIONS OF SA NATIONAL SPSC

- Enhancing national implementation and utilization of the WTO SPS Agreement **and facets of the TBT Agreement** to improve South Africa's credibility for appropriate handling of SPS matters with members of the WTO.
- Identifying, coordinating and considering SPS **and associated TBT matters**, as appropriate, among inter- and intra departmental role players, stakeholders and national agencies.
- Consultation regarding the formulation of national positions on issues tabled on the agenda for regional and international meetings.
- Coordination and consideration of technical assistance and cooperation.



FUNCTIONS OF SA NATIONAL SPS CC (cont'd)

- Advising on representation at national, regional and international SPS meetings and capacity-building opportunities.
- Maintaining the prescribed linkage with the SADC SPS Coordinating Committee.
- Advising on the feasibility and content of bilateral, multilateral and plurilateral SPS Agreements.
- Coordination and feedback on substantive issues emanating from SPS and TBT developments at an international and/ or regional level.
- Consultation and feedback on WTO-SPS and TBT notifications (incoming/outgoing) likely to affect South African trade.



OPERATIONS OF SA NATIONAL SPSC

Composition / membership of the NSPSC (SPS/TBT Committee)

- Management and technical officials from the DAFF units responsible for implementation of SPS and TBT measures and related trade matters.
- Other relevant role players and stakeholders, include the following:
 - National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS)
 - Department of Health (Codex national contact point)
 - Department of Trade and Industry (the dti - national TBT focal point)
 - South African Revenue Service (SARS)
 - Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO)

Representatives from other relevant stakeholders are invited to attend when necessary.

OPERATIONS OF THE SA NATIONAL SPSC (Cont'd)

Legal status of NSPSC

- The establishment of the Committee and its terms of reference (TOR) has been recognised and approved by the Executive Management of DAFF.

Description of the information sharing mechanism

- Telephonically
- Via e-mail
- SPS Newsletter (reports on Sanitary and Phytosanitary issues currently being discussed at the National SPS Committee meetings)
- Industry platforms (SPS Committee members participation at industry platforms)



OPERATIONS OF THE SA NATIONAL SPSC (Cont'd)

Budget for the NSPSC

- Operational responsibility for the SPS Committee resides within a dedicated SPS Coordination unit within DFIES which has its own budget.
- Costs associated with subsistence and travel to attend SPS Committee meetings are borne by individual directorates or departments.

NSPSC Work Plan

- Three meetings are held per annum.
- The meetings provide advice and make recommendations to SA delegations participating in the WTO-SPS Committee platform and other important bilateral engagements.



Thank You



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