
BOARD NOTICES • RAADSKENNISGEWINGS

BOARD NOTICE 135 OF 2020**AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE AGENTS COUNCIL
BIOSECURITY RULES FOR LIVESTOCK AGENTS**

It is hereby made known that –

- (a) the rules set out in the Schedule have been made under section 10(b) of the Agricultural Produce Agents Act, 1992, (Act No. 12 of 1992) (“the Act”), read with section 22(2) and (3) of the said Act;
- (b) that the rules shall come into effect on the date of publication hereof in the Gazette.

CF KNOWLES

Registrar of Agricultural Produce Agents’ Council.

SCHEDULE**1. BACKGROUND and DEFINITIONS:**

These rules will regulate the livestock agent’s industry with specific reference to required precautions to take during the gathering of live animals at auctions to reduce the risk of the spreading controlled, notifiable and other animal diseases.

In summary, each livestock agent/auctioneer will comply with the following:

- a) The rules for auctions in this document.
- b) Registration with the Agricultural Produce Agents Council (APAC) is compulsory and only registered agents will be allowed to conduct business.
- c) Acceptance of responsibilities in terms of Sections 11 and 26 of the Animal Diseases Act, Act 35 of 1984.

- d) An external audit of the auction facilities and all procedures, including these rules for auctions, will be undertaken by an independent auditor, these audits will need to be submitted to APAC bi-annually.
- e) Every livestock agent must appoint a Biosecurity practitioner (a person registered with the South African Veterinary Council).

Definitions

“Agent” means a person who, for the acquisition of gain on his or her own account or in a partnership, in any manner holds himself or herself out as a person who either directly or indirectly advertises that he or she on the instructions of or on behalf of any other person, purchases or sells agricultural produce or negotiates in connection therewith or canvasses or undertakes or offers to canvass a purchaser or seller therefor;

“Arrival area” is an area where animals are held before being allowed into the biosecure area;

“Auctioneer” means a vendor carrying on an enterprise which comprises or includes the supply by him/her the auction of goods as an auctioneer or agent for or on behalf of another person (Section 54(4), Value Added tax Act, Act 89 of 1991);

“Biosecure area” is the area where only animals whose documentation has been verified, identification and health status has been confirmed by a SAVC qualified person, i.e. animals unlikely to pose a significant risk of carrying any contagious disease-causing agents, as well as persons who have been decontaminated to the satisfaction of a biosecurity practitioner are allowed to enter;

“Biosecurity practitioner” a person registered with the South African Veterinary Council, who oversees compliance with minimum biosecurity requirements for animals from different origins congregating for auctioning, in line with the requirements of Sections 11 and 26 of the Animal Diseases Act, Act 35 of 1984 and the rules in this document;

“Animal Owner Health Attestation” is a signed declaration from the owner of the animals that attests:

- The name and location of the farm/area of origin.
- The absence of overt signs of disease and parasites.
- The absence of unexplained mortalities on the property of origin in the preceding 28 days.
- No new animal introductions to the property of origin in the preceding 14 days.
- Where possible, and especially during periods of disease control restrictions in specific localities, confirmation of this health status by the farm's attending veterinarian is ideal, see Addendum A of this document.

“Livestock agent” means an agent acting as such with regard to any agricultural product specified in Part B of Schedule 1 (Act) and for purposes of section 3(1)(b) includes any director of a company, trustee of a trust or a member of a close corporation which acts as a livestock agent as aforesaid.

“Visitor” includes any person at the auction yard e.g. administrative personnel, auctioneers, managers, sellers, owners, buyers, workers, veterinarians etc.

2. OBJECTIVES:

Auction facilities are the second level of detection for animal diseases for animals that are traded through this very critical marketing section of the livestock production value chain and therefore should play a very important role in reducing the spread of animal disease(s) through transactional business activities conducted within the auction facilities. This document aims to establish an auditable and traceable system, while at the same time minimizing the spread of animal disease(s) because of auction activities.

This will be achieved by the specific objectives:

- a) Implementation of a reliable, accurate, and auditable record-keeping system that ensures that all transactions conducted at livestock auctions were carried out in accordance with these reasonable and justifiable rules.

- b) Application of good biosecurity measures to prevent the introduction of diseased animals onto the property and to prevent between-animal spread at a livestock auction.
- c) Prompt and diligent reporting of any suspected controlled or notifiable animal diseases to the relevant state veterinarian.
- d) Commitment to adhere strictly to the prescripts of the following legislation, their regulations, and rules:
 - Animal Diseases Act, Act No. 35 of 1984 and the control measures therein.
 - Animal Identification Act, Act No. 6 of 2002 and the Regulations published in Government Gazette no 26732 of 21 November 2003.
 - Stock Theft Act, Act No. 57 of 1959 with specific reference to Section 6, 7 and 8 (Guidelines as to the completion of documentation).
 - Animal Protection Act, Act No. 72 of 1962.
 - Agricultural Produce Agents Act, Act No. 12 of 1992 and the Rules in Respect of Livestock Agents published in Government Gazette 41473 dated 2 March 2018.
 - The Livestock Agent takes full responsibility for any animal found within the auction premises, that is found not to be compliant with the above Legislation or the Rules in this document.

3. RECORD KEEPING AND AUDITING:

As per the Rules in Respect of Livestock Agents published in Government Gazette 41473 dated 2 March 2018.

In addition, the following documentation must arrive with the animals and should be kept:

- a) Original valid Article 6 and/or 8 documentation from the owner of the animals.
- b) Copy of Brand Registration Certificate of the owner of the animals.

- c) Copy of RSA ID of the owner of the animals.
- d) Original Animal Owner Health Attestation, that may have a confirmation of that attestation by a veterinarian, for the farm of origin and the specific animals.
- e) Complete details of premises of origin on the Section 6 document: physical address, farm name, Surveyor General number and portion number etc. as declared and signed by the owner of the animals as well as the owner or manager of the premises of origin.

4. ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION:

As per the Animal Identification Act, Act No. 6 of 2002 and the Regulations published in Government Gazette no 26732 of 21 November 2003; and the Stock Theft Act, Act No. 57 of 1959 with specific reference to Section 6, 7 and 8 (Guidelines as to the completion of documentation). Animals that are not compliant with these regulations should not be permitted to enter the biosecure area.

- a) All animals accepted at an auction must be properly and permanently marked with the owner's registered mark in accordance with the Animal Identification Act, Act 6 of 2002, and regulations published in Government Gazette no 25732 of 21 November 2003.
- b) Animals without registered marks shall not be off-loaded at the biosecure area.
- c) No freshly branded animals may be accepted.
- d) No animals with wet paint marks of previous auctions may be accepted within 28 days after the previous sale.
- e) No branding or marking of animals is allowed on the auction premises.
- f) The auctioneer must ensure the registered brand belongs to the owner, check the brand marking certificate and ID of the owner and driver/transporter where applicable and to follow up any suspicious brands with the local Stock Theft Unit. The livestock agent must insist on a confirmation of their reporting of the non-compliance with the Stock Theft Act and keep these on record.

- g) The ear tag / identity tag for each animal's individual identification – as per the Livestock Identification and Traceability System, shall correspond with the list of animals in the Original Animal Owner Health Attestation.

5. BIOSECURITY MEASURES AT THE AUCTION FACILITY:

- a) The auction facility must be divided into areas of varying risk, based on the concept of “arrival” (dirty) and “biosecure” (clean) areas. Only animals allowed into the biosecure area may be sold to third parties.
- b) A flow diagram must be available for each facility which clearly indicates the different areas and their risk profile.
- c) Every auction facility must appoint a Biosecurity Practitioner.

6. BIOSECURITY MEASURES AT FARM OF ORIGIN BEFORE MOVEMENT TO AN AUCTION:

- a) Biosecurity at auctions cannot be 100% fool-proof and the risk of spread of disease needs to be reduced through biosecurity and disease surveillance on the farms of origin of the animals destined for sale.
- b) All animals moved to an auction facility must be accompanied by an Original Animal Owner Health Attestation.
- c) Livestock agents must ensure that an Original Animal Health Attestation accompanies ALL livestock BEFORE animals can be moved to the auction facilities.
- d) Only animals that comply with the Original Animal Health Attestation may be off-loaded at the auction facility's biosecure area.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE CHECKPOINT:

- a) No animals may be accepted by the livestock agent when not registered with the auctioneer/livestock agent at least 24 hours (1 day) prior to the auction taking place.

- b) Registration will imply that all the documentation required from the animal owner including a copy of the Animal Owner Health Attestation (see section 3) has been provided to the livestock agent. This will form part of the audit trail.
- c) All animals should have been individually identified at the farms of origin and carry the AIDA registered brand mark of their owner. The individual identification must be verified on arrival at the facility and must correspond to the identification provided in the Animal Owner Health Attestation from the owner, a section 6 declaration.

8. ACTIONS REQUIRED AT THE ARRIVAL AREA (DIRTY AREA):

8.1 Biosecurity measures on entering at the Auction's Livestock Vehicle Entrance

- a) A standard operating procedure (SOP) for cleaning of all vehicles entering the arrival area must be adhered to. The SOP will be prepared by the Biosecurity Practitioner and approved by a veterinarian.

8.2 Animal Inspection at Off-loading

- a) No vehicle transporting animals may enter the auction premises without all documentation (section 3) being checked and verified beforehand at the Arrival area.
- b) A pre-quarantine facility with a crush and proper neck clamp must be available in the arrival area where suspect animals could be examined by a trained assistant for the presence of overt signs of disease and external parasites, prior to being admitted to the Biosecure area.
- c) All animals must, upon arrival, be checked for lesions or clinical signs of disease or external parasites. In addition, animals shall be checked for official marks/brands indicating any of the controlled animal diseases such as Brucellosis, Tuberculosis and Foot and mouth disease. If there is any suspicion of any infectious disease, please refer to section 10 below.

- d) There must be a designated camp where unfit animals can be detained so that they are not allowed to enter the Biosecure area.

All animals accepted at an auction must be properly and permanently marked (see section 4).

8.3 Cleaning and disinfection of vehicles after off-loading

- a) A parking area with a vehicle cleaning and disinfection station must be identified away from the animals in the auction pens.
- b) All vehicles that off load and reload animals must be cleaned/disinfected.
- c) Proper and functional cleaning equipment (high-pressure washers) must be available/provided.
- d) Access points to the area must be identified and demarcated clearly and vehicle movement pathways must be mapped and clearly indicated.
- e) Waste and effluent from the vehicle washing area must be managed in a manner to prevent contamination of the facilities or the area outside the facilities. Preferably a French Drain System must be installed.

9. BIOSECURE AREAS (CLEAN):

9.1 Separation of personnel from arrival and biosecure areas

- a) Personnel working in each of the defined risk areas are strictly restricted to those areas and must be identified by differently coloured overalls. Alternatively, personnel moving between areas of different risk must shower, change clothing, and disinfect shoes/boots and hands before entering or leaving the Biosecure area.
- b) No access of vehicles or any person to the Biosecure area are permitted unless via proper decontamination protocols.
- c) The control boundary must be respected and identified to all persons.

- d) Access points must be respected, well-demarcated and notices of procedures to be followed in specific access areas should be displayed.

9.2 Vehicle and visitor control

- a) control logbooks must be kept of all visitors, vehicles, equipment etc. entering or leaving the Biosecure area.
- b) No entry of persons, vehicles or products should be allowed into the Biosecure area if not expressly permitted by the Biosecurity Practitioner, subject to the rules in the biosecurity plan as drawn up by the Biosecurity Practitioner.
- c) A different access gate for visitors and their vehicles should be used, if possible.
- d) A wheel dip or spray must be used for access of vehicles into the Biosecure area.
- e) People moving into and out of the Biosecure area must use a foot dip when going in and out of the area.
- f) Ideally, persons entering the Biosecure area should make use of raised walkways and not the walkways demarcated for the livestock.

9.3 Cleaning and disinfection of Biosecure area after auction

The entire Biosecure area will be cleaned and disinfected after the auction according to the SOP drawn up by the Biosecurity Practitioner.

10. OFFICIAL REPORTING PROCEDURES OF SUSPECT ANIMALS:

- a) Any case of an animal showing any suspected clinical signs of FMD or any other controlled/notifiable disease will immediately be reported to the state veterinarian. (See section 11(2) of the Animal Diseases Act, Act 35 of 1984).
- b) Any instruction of the state veterinarian issued must be adhered to immediately.
- c) Any animals presented at the auction without the proper and necessary documentation at the Arrival area shall not be allowed entry at the Biosecure area at the auction facility. If there is suspicion of animal ownership the animals should

be held back on the vehicle in a dedicated area and be reported to the nearest Stock Theft Unit. However, if delays ensue that threaten the welfare of the affected animals, then they will have to be temporarily offloaded and held in the detainment area while they await said Stock Theft Unit.

- d) The contact details and (after hours details) of the state veterinarian and stock theft units must be available and displayed at the auction premises.

ADDENDUM A**HEALTH DECLARATION FOR ANIMALS GOING ON AUCTION:****ANIMAL OWNER**

NAME _____

FARM NAME _____

POST ADDRESS _____

DISTRICT _____

TEL _____

FAX _____

E-MAIL _____

LIVESTOCK INFO

BREED _____

ID NO. _____

STATE VET

NAME _____

TOWN _____

PROVINCE _____

POSTAL ADDRESS _____

TEL _____

FAX _____

E-MAIL _____

PRIVATE VET

NAME _____

TOWN _____

PROVINCE _____

POSTAL ADDRESS _____

TEL _____

FAX _____

E-MAIL _____

WE REQUIRE HEALTH INFO TO THE BEST OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE.

To accept animals at the auction pens we need info on the health status of the animals and the farm of origin.

The Vet at the auction facility need correct info and that is why this health attestation is important.

The info can be of your personal work, from the local state vet, private vet, or district animal health technicians.

**1. We need to know if any of the diseases was diagnosed on the farm of origin in the last year.
If you do not know please mark "?" otherwise YES or NO.**

1.1	Brucellosis (CA)	YES	NO	?
1.2	Tuberculosis (TB)	YES	NO	?
1.3	Paratuberculosis	YES	NO	?
1.4	Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis	YES	NO	?
1.5	Leptospirosis	YES	NO	?
1.6	Bluetongue	YES	NO	?
1.7	Trichomonas foetus	YES	NO	?
1.8	Campylobacter foetus	YES	NO	?
1.9	Enzootic bovine Leucosis	YES	NO	?
1.10	Rabies	YES	NO	?
1.11	Lumpy skin disease	YES	NO	?
1.12	Rift Valley fever	YES	NO	?
1.13	Bovine Viral Diarrhea (B.V.D.)	YES	NO	?
1.14	Foot and Mouth disease	YES	NO	?
1.15	Other	YES	NO	?

2. Was animals vaccinated against the following diseases. If YES, give the date of vaccination.

2.1	Lumpy skin	YES	NO	?	Date: _____
2.2	Rift valley	YES	NO	?	Date: _____
2.3	Rabies	YES	NO	?	Date: _____
2.4	Brucellosis (CA)	YES	NO	?	Date: _____

- 2.5 B.V.D.

YES	NO	?
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 Date: _____
- 2.6 Blue tongue

YES	NO	?
-----	----	---

 Date: _____
- 2.7 Foot and Mouth Disease

YES	NO	?
-----	----	---

 Date: _____
- 2.8 I.B.R.

YES	NO	?
-----	----	---

 Date: _____
- 2.9 Other:
Black quarter, Bohtax, Anthrax, etc.

YES	NO	?
-----	----	---

 Date: _____

3. Was any samples tested at a lab for:

- 3.1 Brucellosis (CA)

YES	NO	?
-----	----	---

 Date: _____
- 3.2 Tuberculosis (TB)

YES	NO	?
-----	----	---

 Date: _____
- 3.3 Sheath washes - Trichomonas
- Campylobacter

YES	NO	?
YES	NO	?

 Date: _____
- 3.4 B.V.D.

YES	NO	?
-----	----	---

 Date: _____
- 3.5 I.B.R.

YES	NO	?
-----	----	---

 Date: _____
- 3.6 Leukosis

YES	NO	?
-----	----	---

 Date: _____
- 3.7 Other

YES	NO	?
-----	----	---

 Date: _____

3.8 If available attach the lab results.

4. Since when were animals kept on farm of origin _____

5. When last were any new animals introduced on farm of origin _____

6. Is the farm correctly under quarantine:

YES	NO	?
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If YES, explain:

Hereby I, _____, as the state vet / herd veterinarian / animal health technician, declare that I examined the above mentioned animals and that the animals were clinically healthy and clinically free from any communicable disease.

STATE VET /PRIVATE VET – SIGNATURE

DATE

Hereby I, _____, as the owner / representative of the owner, declare that I examined the above mentioned animals and that the animals were clinically healthy and clinically free from any communicable disease.

OWNER / REPRESENTATIVE

DATE

For Office use

Hereby I, _____, as the auction vet, declare that I examined _____ animals of the above mentioned owner and that the animals were clinically healthy and clinically free from any communicable disease.

AUCTION VET – SIGNATURE

DATE

Date of Auction